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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yukihito ICHIKAWA

Group Art Unit: 1723

Application No.: 10/803,026

Examiner: K. MENON

Filed: March 18, 2004

Docket No.: 119151

For: WATER ABSORPTION MEASURING METHOD OF POROUS CELL STRUCTURE,
WATER ABSORPTION INFORMATION DISPLAY METHOD AND CATALYST
CARRYING METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the June 27, 2006 Restriction/Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, Species A1, with traverse.

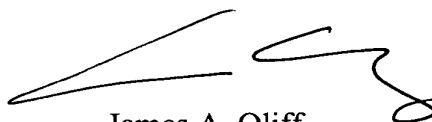
At least claims 1-3 read on species A1.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims and species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims/species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims/species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should

apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction/Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 17, 2006

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